

Cave Hill Cemetery,
Ben Smith Mausoleum
Lots 90-95, Section G
Louisville
Jefferson County
Kentucky

HABS No. KY-122

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Architectural and Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C., 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CAVE HILL CEMETERY
BEN SMITH MAUSOLEUM

HABS No. KY-122

Location: Lots 90-95, Section G, Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky.

Present Owner and Occupant: Ben Smith Family.

Present Use: Mausoleum.

Significance: One of the oldest mausolea in Cave Hill Cemetery, the Ben Smith is also the largest. It is the only purely Greek Revival mausoleum in the cemetery.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: Circa 1849.
2. Architect: Possibly E. E. Williams, who designed the family's town house in Louisville using the Greek Revival style.
3. Original and subsequent owners (occupants):

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Date of Interment</u> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mrs. Irene Smith | October 3, 1873 |
| Alexander C. Bullitt | June 6, 1868 |
| Benjamin Smith, Jr. | January 8, 1863 |
| Mrs. Frances Smith Bullitt | March 14, 1855 |

The burial lots were purchased October 14, 1848 from Cave Hill Cemetery according to records in the office at the Cemetery.

- B. Historical Context: The Ben Smith family was a prominent Southern family, owning extensive amounts of land and property, including Longwood and Basin Plantations in Washington County, Mississippi; "Ever May" Plantation in Louisiana; 1600 acres in Boone County, Missouri; and a twenty-two room summer home in Louisville, Kentucky. Benjamin Smith, Sr. died August 31, 1846 and is interred elsewhere. His wife, Irene, is buried in the family mausoleum in Cave Hill Cemetery. A son, Benjamin F. Smith, Jr., served as a private in Company B of the 28th Kentucky volunteers during the Civil War. Following his death in battle he was interred in the family mausoleum. A daughter, Frances Elizabeth, who was married, died in 1855 and was interred in the family mausoleum.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

General description:

The entrance has a portico: a pediment supported by a pair of reeded Doric columns. A gable roof with a pediment on either end shelters the rectangular mausoleum of stone blocks. Antefixes sit atop the pediments.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Bibliography

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Record files in Cave Hill Cemetery office.

Will of Mrs. Irene Smith, County Clerk's Office, Will book 8, p. 215.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Johnston, J. Stoddard, Memorial History of Louisville from its First Settlement to the Year 1896. Chicago: American Biographical Publishing Co. 1896.

"Old Homes and Landmarks" notes compiled by Neville S. Bullitt, on file at the Filson Club, later written as newspaper articles.

Prepared by: David Arbogast
Architectural Historian
National Park Service
August, 1974

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in cooperation with the Preservation Alliance of Louisville and Jefferson County, Inc. Under the direction of John Poppeliers, chief of HABS, the project was completed during the summer of 1974 at the HABS Field Office in Louisville by Prof. John Haggard, (Syracuse University), Project Supervisor; David Arbogast (Columbia University), Project Historian; Mary Oehrlein, Project Foreman; Bayer Lee (City College of New York), Architect; and Mary M. Herd (University of Tennessee) and Charles Raith (University of Cincinnati), student assistant architects. Susan McCown, a HABS staff historian in the Washington, D.C. office, edited the written descriptive data in the spring of 1981, for transmittal to the Library of Congress. HABS staff photographer Jack E. Boucher took the photographs of the structures in 1979.